



Dartmouth College • News Service

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DARTMOUTH COLLEGE OUTING CLUB TO HOST 'WOODSMEN'S WEEKEND' MAY 6-7
WITH 250 COMPETITORS FROM EIGHT SCHOOLS VYING IN LUMBERJACK SKILLS

HANOVER, N.H. -- Timberr! Over 250 students and alumni from at least eight northeastern schools will compete here in traditional lumberjack skills on May 6 and 7 as part of the 37th annual "Woodsmen's Weekend" which returns to Dartmouth after a three-year hiatus.

The Cabin and Trail division of the Dartmouth Outing Club (DOC), which organized the first intercollegiate woodsmen's weekend in 1947, is organizing this year's competition. The event rotates among competing colleges able to host it.

Among the other schools competing in the colorful event are University of New Hampshire, University of Maine at Orono, Colby College and Unity College of Maine, Paul Smith's College and the Community College of the Finger Lakes from New York, and Proctor Academy High School in New Hampshire.

Each college will be represented by one or two men's teams, a women's team, and, in some cases, an alumni team. In the course of the two days they will saw, roll, throw, chop and otherwise go through more than 20 tons of lumber.

The defending champions from last year's meet are a Unity College men's team and the Community College of the Finger Lakes women's team.

The collegiate weekend woodsmen will compete in a total of 19 events starting at 9:00 a.m. on Friday when canoe races will be held at Storrs Pond, about three miles north of the campus. Other events in the Storrs Pond-Oak Hill area on Friday will include a team pulpwood toss and packboard relays.

On Saturday, the competition will move to the Garipay fields off Reservoir Road for an 8 a.m. start of the six singles events: axe throw, chain throw, pulpwood throw, chain sawing vertical chop, and pole climbing. Doubles, triples and team events will be held throughout the day.

The intercollegiate woodsmen's event will end Saturday evening with a barbecue and awards ceremony at Storrs Pond.

Reflecting the strong role Dartmouth women are taking in DOC activities, two seniors, Elaine Anderson of Weston, Mass., and Diana Wright of Washington, D.C., are coordinating the complex arrangements for this year's competition. It's the first time since Dartmouth became coeducational in 1972 that Woodsmen's Weekend here has been organized under the leadership of women.

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Among the colleges competing in this year's woodsmen's competition, Dartmouth, committed in its educational programs to the liberal arts philosophy, is the only one that does not have a school of forestry where practicing certain woodsmen's skills might be part of field work. Yet Dartmouth's "amateur" outdoorsmen and women have always been competitive.

Indeed, in 1980, the last time the annual Woodsmen's Weekend competition was held here, the Dartmouth alumni team was the overall winner, while the undergraduate "A" took second place and the "B" team was fourth for a Big Green sweep of three of the top four places. And on the distaff side, the Dartmouth women's team took second.

In 1981, the Dartmouth women improved to win that competition, and the Dartmouth alumni team repeated as overall winner, with the Green "A" team coming in third. Last year, however, the Dartmouth alumni slipped a notch, but still came in second overall; the men's undergraduate "A" team dropped to fourth and the women's team came in second again. It's the aim of Anderson and Wright, they said, to return the Green pine tree banner back to the top of at least one of the divisions.

This year's Woodsmen's Weekend has been dedicated to former Dartmouth president John Sloan Dickey "for all of the support he gave the DOC" during his 25 years (1945-1970) as the historic College's 12th president.

Woodsmen's Weekend was first organized in 1947 by Ross McKenney, the DOC woodcraft advisor. The contest was born from a desire to pass on the special crafts and skills of a vanishing breed of north country lumberjacks

The Dartmouth Outing Club was founded in 1909 by the late Fred Harris, a 1911 graduate of the College, to foster an appreciation of the outdoors. The club, approaching its 75th anniversary, is the oldest college outing club in the country.

In addition to the Woodsmen's Weekend, the Cabin and Trail division of the DOC organizes hikes and ski tours in the nearby mountains of New Hampshire and Vermont, and is responsible for the maintenance of several cabins and shelters, and more than 150 miles of trails, including the 70 miles of the Appalachian Trail which extends from Georgia to Maine. DOC students maintain the section from Barnard, Vt., to Lost River, N.H., north of Mt. Moosilauke.



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DARTMOUTH COLLEGE WOMEN, ALUMNAE AND ALUMNI TEAMS EMERGE VICTORS IN RUGGED COMPETITION OF 37TH INTERCOLLEGIATE WOODSMEN'S WEEKEND

HANOVER, N.H. -- Women members of the Dartmouth Outing Club (DOC) are proving that the great out-of-doors is no longer a male domain, if prowess in traditional logging tasks is any measure.

In the 37th annual intercollegiate Woodsmen's Weekend hosted here recently by the Dartmouth Outing Club, the Dartmouth women's first team handily topped the women's division in the two-day tournament. In contrast, their Dartmouth male counterparts, frequent winners of the event in the past, had to settle this time for second place in the competition recognized as the olympiad of lumberjack (and jill) skills for colleges in the northeast.

A team from the Community College of the Finger Lakes (CCFL) from upstate New York won the undergraduate men's contest this year, with a total of 1,717 points to the Dartmouth A team's 1,628 points. Paul Smith's A team was third in a field of 12 teams from eight colleges.

Unofficial overall tournament winner was the Dartmouth alumni squad that scored a total of 1,758.8 points out of a possible 1,900 to regain the mythical championship it won in 1980, the last time the Woodmen's Weekend was held on the Dartmouth campus, and retained in 1981 but lost last year.

The Big Green alumni, captained by Jim Taylor '74, of Enfield Center, included Putnam Blodgett of Hanover, the senior competitor as a member of the Class of 1953, who will this June be observing the 30th anniversary of his graduation from the College, and Bishop Mumford '81, who travelled the longest distance -- from his farm in Griffin, Ind. -- to compete. Second in a field of six alumni teams was the Paul Smith College contingent, with 1,520.5 points.

Keeping pace, the Dartmouth alumnae also overpowered Paul Smith alumnae, 1,449.1 to 1,112.4 to win that two-team duel for a clean sweep by the outdoorswomen wearing the pine tree green.

(Alumni teams, often among the strongest, compete only for fun, are not restricted to six competitors and an alternate, and are not recognized for official honors and trophies, although their scores are carefully recorded and noted.)

The tournament, dedicated this year to former Dartmouth President John Sloan Dickey as a tribute to his encouragement of the DOC during his 25 years as 12th chief executive of the historic College, attracted 200 undergraduate and alumni from eight colleges to compete in 30 teams in an exhausting series of 19 events, from canoe portaging to speed chopping and

sawing.

The Dartmouth women regained the winner's trophy that they last captured in 1981 by taking first place in nine events, placing second or third in the other events, and amassing a decisive 1,743 points. The Paul Smith women, with 1,578.9 points, were second, with (CCFL) third in a field of eight teams from seven colleges.

The Dartmouth women won four of the full-team events -- crosscut sawing, log-rolling, packboard relay, and pulp toss -- and also took firsts in three-person speed chopping and two-person scoot loading.

Singles winners for the Dartmouth women were Elaine Anderson, a senior from Weston, Mass., and a co-director of the meet, who won the axe throw; Tiffany Boyd, a freshman from Edina, Minn., first in the chain saw contest; and team captain Cathy Burke, a sophomore from Salmon, Idaho, and victor in the surveyor's chain throw.

Other members of the winning women's team were Diana Wright, a senior from Washington, D.C., and the other co-director of the tournament; and juniors Susan Fernyak from Mansfield, Ohio, and Cola Parker from Menasha, Wisc. NY, NY

This was the first year the Dartmouth Woodmen's Weekend had been organized by women since the Dartmouth Outing Club initiated the competition in 1947 to preserve and honor the special skills of north country loggers and woodsmen.

Members of the Dartmouth men's "A" team were Kevin Peterson '82, captain, from Pontiac, Mich.; seniors John Leonard from Manitowoc, Wisc., and Dan Mullen from West Barnstable, Mass.; David Hooke, a junior from Amherst, Mass.; Jeff Garneau, a sophomore from Bangor, Me., and Alex Tait, a freshman from Winsted, Conn.

Local companies donated machinery and equipment to make the meet possible, as well as much of the 20 tons of wood that was split, chopped and sawed. The loan of a bulldozer by the Trumbell-Nelson Construction Co. proved particularly useful in freeing two New England Telephone trucks which became mired in the mud while setting poles in the ground for the pole climbing and "tree" felling events.

Although, except for the chain sawing events, the collegians for the most part used tools and skills that remain largely unchanged from frontier days when the Dartmouth was chartered here in 1769, the intricate system of scoring the tournament was accomplished on Dartmouth's time-sharing computer system.

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